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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7125
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEWMFD/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY
RUEPADJ/CJTFC HOA PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 7995

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 002912

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/FO, AF/E, AF/RSA
NSC FOR MGAVIN
PARIS FOR WBAIN
LONDON FOR PLORD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PGOV AU

SUBJECT: USAU: AFRICAN UNION PUSHING FOR SOLUTION IN
MADAGASCAR

REF: E-MAIL ON 12/09/09 FROM AMBASSADOR MARQUARDT

This message is from USAU Ambassador Michael Battle.

¶1. (SBU) In a December 10 meeting at AU headquarters, Ambassador John Shinkayie, the Chief of Staff of the AU Commission Chairperson, told USAU Ambassador Battle that the African Union is establishing an office in Antananarivo to help coordinate the transition period per the Maputo Agreement. That office will be headed by former Mozambican minister and Ambassador Francisco Madeira. Meanwhile, the AU's Special Envoy who has been working on the Madagascar portfolio, Ablassé Ouedraogo, will continue in his present capacity when called upon to do so by the AU Chairperson. These will be two distinct positions or missions, Shinkayie said. AU officials are downplaying any tension between Ouedraogo and others involved in mediating the Malagasy crisis.

¶2. (U) Separately, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Ramtane Lamamra informed USAU that there will be an International Contact Group meeting on Madagascar's situation on December 17 in Antananarivo. Lamamra specifically asked that Ambassador Phil Carter attend the meeting if his schedule permits. The AU leadership is seeking to get the different parties in Madagascar to implement their previous agreements and move the country toward a return to constitutional rule.

MUSHINGI